bathing ghats, etc. and (vi) Other miscellaneous works like Afforestation, Public Participation etc. The State Water Utilities/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are to treat and disinfect drinking water to the extent necessary to make it physically chemically and bacteriologically fit for human consumption before supplying the same to the consumers. State water Utilities/ULBs are expected to monitor the quality of drinking water (physical, chemical, bacteriological parameters) regularly.

**Poaching in Andhra Pradesh**

3731. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across any incident of poaching in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure such incident do not recur; and

(c) whether any separate cell has been set up to catch hold of those who indulge in poaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the State Government, 7 and 22 poaching cases have been booked in Andhra Pradesh during 2006 and 2005 respectively. The steps taken to prevent incidences of poaching are as follows:

Steps taken at national level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that are used for committing wild life offence.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

Steps taken at State level:

(i) The field staff have been alerted to be on the look out for any poaching activity in their jurisdiction.

(ii) Wide publicity is given through media on the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 against poaching.

'iii) Regular patrolling is being organized by the field officers by formation of special parties

Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication systems.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has set up a separate ɜillance Cell under the control of the Assistant Conservator of sts in the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to ıitor the anti-poaching measures and co-ordinate with the field officers revention of poaching and illegal trade of wild animals and their ›ducts.

**Clearance of Schemes**

3732. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes pending for clearance with Government, as on date, State-wise;

(b) what is the time-frame by which projects are generally cleared by Government; and

(c) the details of projects for which permission has been refused/withheld, State-wise indicating reasons for each?